

**WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

**COMMITTEE:        SOCIAL SERVICES**

**DATE:                OCTOBER 23, 2015**

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**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

SUPERVISORS   SIMPSON  
                      WOOD  
                      SOKOL  
                      FRASIER  
                      STROUGH  
                      VANSELOW  
                      SEEBER

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

REPRESENTING THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES:

                      MAUREEN SCHMIDT, COMMISSIONER  
                      JULIE MONTERO, FISCAL MANAGER  
                      DEANNA PARK, DIRECTOR OF COUNTRYSIDE ADULT HOME  
                      KEVIN B. GERAGHTY, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD  
                      PAUL DUSEK, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR  
                      AMANDA ALLEN, CLERK OF THE BOARD  
SUPERVISORS   BROCK  
                             GIRARD  
                             TAYLOR  
                      LLOYD COTE, ADMINISTRATOR OF WESTMOUNT HEALTH FACILITY  
                      DON LEHMAN, *THE POST STAR*  
                      SAMANTHA HOGAN, SENIOR LEGISLATIVE OFFICE SPECIALIST

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Mr. Simpson called the meeting of the Social Services Committee to order at 9:02 a.m.

Motion was made by Mr. Strough, seconded by Mrs. Frasier and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the previous Budget Committee meeting, subject to correction by the Clerk of the Board.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Maureen Schmidt, Commissioner of the Department of Social Services (DSS), who distributed copies of the DSS agenda to the Committee members; *a copy of the DSS agenda is on file with the minutes.*

Commencing the agenda review, Ms. Schmidt presented the following requests:

1. To authorize the Deputy Commissioner/Chief Legal Counsel to act in any and all capacities in place of the Commissioner of Social Services in the absence or inability of the Commissioner to act.

In response to questions from the Committee, Ms. Schmidt explained this request was presented at the suggestion of Patricia Nenninger, *Personnel Officer*, who had indicated such action was necessary due to the fact that the original "Deputy Commissioner" title had been changed to "Deputy Commissioner/Chief Legal Counsel". Ms. Seeber recommended that in cases like this in the future, Ms. Nenninger should be asked to attend the meeting and provide a full explanation as to why action was necessary.

Motion was made by Mr. Strough, seconded by Ms. Wood and carried unanimously to approve the request as presented and the necessary resolution was authorized for the November 20<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

2. To authorize filling of the vacant position of Caseworker #1 in the Foster Care/Adoption Unit, *Grade 16, Annual Base Salary \$39,004*, due to retirement.

Motion was made by Mr. Vanselow, seconded by Mr. Strough and carried unanimously to approve the request and refer same to the Personnel Committee for reporting purposes. *A copy of the Notice of Intent to Fill Vacant Position form is on file with the minutes.*

Privilege of the floor was extended to Deanna Park, Director of Countryside Adult Home, who

distributed copies of the Countryside agenda to the Committee members; *a copy of the agenda is on file with the minutes.*

Commencing her agenda review Ms. Park presented the following requests:

1. To authorize a new agreement with Kaitlyn Witz, RD, to provide dietician services to residents at a rate of \$40.00 per hour, not to exceed a total of \$3,840, for the term commencing November 1, 2015 and terminating on October 31, 2017.

Motion was made by Ms. Wood, seconded by Mrs. Frasier carried unanimously to approve the request as presented and the necessary resolution was authorized for the November 20<sup>th</sup> Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

2. To authorize a new agreement with Orkin to provide one-time pest control services for the lump sum amount of \$925.

Motion was made by Mr. Vanselow, seconded by Mr. Strough and carried unanimously to approve the request as outlined and the necessary resolution was authorized for the November 20<sup>th</sup> Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Ms. Park advised the Overtime Report was attached to the agenda; she noted the totals reflected in the Report were consistent with last year's figures.

Referring to Resolution No. 343 of 2014, *Resolution Authorizing Settlement of New York State Department of Health Administrative Enforcement Proceeding*, Mr. Simpson advised the settlement approved was never processed and the \$1,000 penalty was not paid. He stated that no Committee action was necessary to rectify this situation; however, he said, he wanted the Committee to be aware of the matter and that payment was being processed.

Ms. Park noted at last month's meeting the Committee had discussed the possibility of allowing a small number of out-of-County residents into Countryside Adult Home to fill vacant beds and offset a portion of the associated costs; she asked if the Committee desired to continue this discussion.

Ms. Seeber advised after last month's meeting she and Mr. Brock had met with Ms. Park who had graciously taken time out of her day to speak with them and answer their questions. She commended Ms. Park for doing an exceptional job, decreasing costs to the County while still maintaining quality services for a population in need. She pointed out that with this effort, Ms. Park would continue to offer priority placement for Warren County residents and she stated she was fully supportive of this idea.

At Mr. Dusek's request, Ms. Park reviewed the financial aspects of her suggestion. She advised that the monthly fee to reside at Countryside Adult Home was \$3,100 and that residents who received temporary assistance benefits contributed their monthly income to defray the cost, while the County and the State each paid 50% of the remaining amount. Ms. Park advised whether or not a bed was filled, the cost to operate Countryside remained the same and therefore, if they were to admit out-of-County residents they would receive some revenue, although not as much as they would for a Warren County resident. She noted that if the Committee was interested in pursuing this idea, she would recommend that they incorporate a limit on how many out-of-County residents could be admitted and she suggested they begin by limiting admittance to not more than five out-of-County residents at one time in order to ensure there would be space available for Warren County residents.

Following a brief discussion, motion was made by Mr. Vanselow, seconded by Ms. Seeber and carried

unanimously in favor of Ms. Park's suggestion to admit up to five out-of-County residents to fill empty beds at Countryside Adult Home, with admitting preference being given to Warren County residents, and the necessary resolution was authorized for the November 20<sup>th</sup> Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Privilege of the floor was extended to Julie Montero, DSS Fiscal Manager, who advised the DSS Overtime Report included in the agenda indicated overtime use was 500 hours less than last year's figures. In regards to the Revenue and Expenditures Report included in the agenda, Ms. Montero apprised expenditures were down for September in comparison to last year's figures, while revenues were up.

As there was no further business to come before the Social Services Committee, on motion made by Mrs. Frasier and seconded by Ms. Wood, Mr. Simpson adjourned the meeting at 9:18 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Samantha Hogan, Senior Legislative Office Specialist